

To Fidelis.

SIR,

A VERY considerable Body of the Electors of the Borough of Shrewsbury, impressed with a due Sense of the infinite Service you have rendered their Cause, take this Opportunity of expressing their warmest Acknowledgments.

Actuated by those Principles of Honour, which adorn and dignify the Bosoms of good Men, you have severely reprobated the mischievous Insinuations of base Calumniators. If, in speaking Truth with Boldness, you have excited Rancour in their Hearts, consider it as the natural but impotent Effusion of a guilty Conscience.

We feel perfectly conscious that all the Attacks that have been made, and are preparing against you, whether they appear with, or without a Name, originate from the same Source. We entreat you to disregard them all; to repose in that Peace and Security which must ever result from a Confidence in having acted well, and to persevere in your original Determination of making them no Reply, until an Answer to the Facts you have stated shall appear, more worthy of your Notice than the vulgar Invectives they have lately brought forward.

In the mean Time rest assured that you possess numerous Friends, who are ready at all Times to answer any Insinuation that may appear to your Prejudice.

We are at a Loss to conceive whether your Opponents fancy themselves invested with the Tiara of the Roman Pontiff, or the Authority of a German Despot, by the Anathemas and Mandates they think proper to denounce against you, as an anonymous Writer. It is, without Exception, the most insolent Attack upon the Liberties of the Press, which we have witnessed since the Days of the immortal *Junius*.

With regard to ourselves, we are perfectly indifferent whether our Names are subjoined, or not, to this Statement of our Sentiments. But, as a Sanction to the Example you have offered, and feeling convinced, to use your own Words, that this "Dispute is to be settled by Facts, not Names," we have thought proper to affix no other Signature to this Declaration, than

The Friends of Truth and Fidelis.